

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS:

Amend the paragraph on page 60, line 17-22, as follows:

EXAMPLE 9: polymerization reaction (4)

An aqueous copolymer (weight-average molecular weight=29,500) solution (4) was obtained in the same way as of Example [[1]] 8 except that: the 12.5 parts of L-ascorbic acid was replaced with 12.5 parts of erysorbic acid. Incidentally, during the polymerization reaction, the reaction product was sometimes sampled to measure its pH, so that the pH was found to be in the range of 3.2 to 3.6.